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# MELTON MOWBRAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

for the year 1937.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1937.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my thirty-sixth Annual Report on the Health of your District.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area (in acres) .. .. .. .. .. | 5,658 |
| Population Census 1931 .. .. .. .. | 10,437 |
| Estimated resident population middle of 1937 | 11,230 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) .. | 3,175 |
| Rateable value .. .. .. .. .. | £69,621 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. | £265 |

### Social Conditions.

Melton Mowbray, being the premier hunting centre in England, has a large influx of population during the hunting season.

The town is widely known for its manufacture of pork-pies, and Stilton cheeses. The other principal industries include a large Wool Spinning Mill, a Joinery Works employing about 400 persons, and two Boot and Shoe Factories.

A number of employees at the Asfordby Iron Works reside in Melton Mowbray.

### Vital Statistics.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Births, legitimate | M. | 113 | F. 82 | Total | 195 |
| " illegitimate | M. | 3 | F. 4 | Total | 7 |
| Totals:- | | 116 | 86 | | 202 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Still-births .. .. | 3 (all legitimate) |
| Birth-rate .. .. .. .. .. .. | 17·9 |
| Birth-rate for England & Wales .. .. .. | 14·9 |
| Deaths: Males 57. Females 61. Total | 118 |
| Crude Death-rate .. .. .. .. .. | 10·5 |

## Vital Statistics (Contd:)

| | |
|---|---|
| Comparative Death-rate (i.e. allowing for age and sex distribution) | 9·1 |
| Death-rate for England & Wales .. .. .. .. | 12·4 |
| Deaths of Infants under one year of age: 8 (all legitimate) | |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births .. .. .. | 39 |
| Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales .. .. | 58 |

## Causes of Death.

| Causes of Death. | Males. | Females. |
|---|---|---|
| All Causes. | 57 | 61 |
| Influenza .. .. .. .. .. | 4 | 1 |
| Cerebro-spinal fever .. .. .. .. | - | 1 |
| Respiratory tuberculosis .. .. .. | 5 | 2 |
| Other tuberculosis .. .. .. .. | - | - |
| General Paralysis, Tabes &c. .. .. | 1 | - |
| Cancer .. .. .. .. .. .. | 10 | 9 |
| Diabetes .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | 2 |
| Cerebral haemorrhage &c. .. .. .. | 1 | 5 |
| Heart disease .. .. .. .. .. | 10 | 18 |
| Aneurysm .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | - |
| Other circulatory diseases .. .. .. | 1 | 3 |
| Bronchitis .. .. .. .. .. | 3 | 1 |
| Pneumonia .. .. .. .. .. | 2 | 3 |
| Other respiratory diseases .. .. | 2 | 1 |
| Peptic ulcer .. .. .. .. .. | 2 | - |
| Diarrhoea &c. (under 2 years) .. .. | - | 1 |
| Appendicitis .. .. .. .. .. | 2 | - |
| Liver diseases .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | - |
| Other digestive diseases .. .. .. | 2 | 1 |
| Acute and chronic nephritis .. .. | 1 | 2 |
| Puerperal sepsis .. .. .. .. | - | - |
| Other puerperal causes .. .. .. | - | - |
| Congenital causes .. .. .. .. | 4 | 1 |
| Senility .. .. .. .. .. | 2 | 2 |
| Suicide .. .. .. .. .. .. | - | - |
| Other violence .. .. .. .. | 1 | 1 |
| Other defined causes .. .. .. | 1 | 7 |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The particulars furnished in previous Annual Reports are substantially applicable, no special alterations or developments having taken place during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included. The District Surveyor and Water Engineer has also held the appointment of Sanitary Inspector. It being realized that there is ample work for a full time Sanitary Inspector, an official has now been appointed having been selected from eighty applicants.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:-

Further extensions to mains have been made in the Sandy Lane, Scalford Road, Welby Lane & Nottingham Road to supply new building estates.

In connection with the joint scheme (Melton Mowbray U.D.C. & Melton & Belvoir R.D.C.) the new Reservoir at Ab-Kettleby and the Pumping Station & Collecting Tank at Holwell have been completed. A further Pumping Station & Collecting Tank are being constructed at Wartnaby. Mains have been laid to the villages of Asfordby, Holwell, Wartnaby, Long Clawson, Hose & Harby & Burton Lazars, and it is hoped that a supply of water will be available at all these villages very shortly. A high pressure main has also been laid through Melton Mowbray to serve as a fire main and two large factories have connected their sprinkler installation to this.

Chlorinating plant has been installed at Scalford, and also at the New Pumping Station at Holwell. Reports on samples taken since these installations indicate that satisfactory purification is now being effected.

No shortage has occurred during the year, and an ample supply has been available.

Drainage & Sewerage:-

Satisfactory, the town being on the whole well sewered. There are now only four cesspools in the District. A good sewage effluent has I think been maintained throughout the year.

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Closet Accommodation:-

Nearly all the houses are provided with cistern-flushed water-closets, the numbers of each type of accommodation being approximately as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Privies | 1 |
| Pail-closets | 4 |
| Water-closets | 3,170 |

There were no conversions to water-carriage during the year.

Scavenging:-

Most of the houses are provided with movable ashbins.

Refuse is collected by direct-labour and is removed in motor lorries to the Refuse Destructor.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

The Sanitary Inspector submits the following synopsis:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Total No. of premises visited during the year .. .. | 375 |
| " " " complaints received during the year .. .. | 27 |
| " " " defects or nuisances discovered .. .. | 71 |
| " " " inspections made for all purposes .. .. | 636 |
| " " " notices served - Informal 49. Formal 4. Total | 53 |
| " " " defects remedied after service of notices .. | 32 |
| " " " summonses issued .. .. .. .. .. | Nil |

Details of Sanitary Inspections are included under their relevant headings.

Smoke Abatement:-

Complaints as to nuisance from a large Joinery Company's chimneys were very frequent. A considerable improvement has been effected but it would appear that in view of the nearness of inhabited houses this is not yet adequate. The matter is receiving attention.

Swimming Pools:-

There is a public swimming pool in which 'Chloros' disinfectant is used and there is also a children's paddling pool.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations:-

There are two Common Lodging Houses in the District both of which are well kept. Eight inspections were made, and no contraventions were noted.

No Offensive Trade is established and there is no Canal within the area. Fortunately the town is free from caravans, save occasionally for a few days.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs:-

16 Houses were treated by fumigation and spraying after walls had been stripped. No Council Houses were found to be infested.

## H O U S I N G.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) | By Local Authority .. .. .. .. .. | 4 |
| (b) | By other bodies or persons .. .. .. .. | 110 |

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. | 65 |
| | Number of inspections made for the purpose .. | 209 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. .. | Nil |
| | Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. | Nil |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. | 64 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .. .. .. .. | 27 |

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. | 9 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- | |
| | (a) By Owners .. .. .. .. .. .. | 6 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| | (a) By Owners .. .. .. .. .. .. | Nil |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .. 12

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .. .. .. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | i. | Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year | 49 |
| | ii. | Number of families dwelling therein .. .. | 58 |
| | iii. | Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. | 439 |
| (b) | | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 12 |
| (c) | i. | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 9 |
| | ii. | Number of persons concerned in such cases | 40 |
| (d) | | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. .. | Nil |

A further 52 houses are in course of construction and will it is hoped relieve a number of cases of overcrowding.

## INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Retailers: | No. on Register .. .. .. .. | 19 |
| | No. of inspections of premises .. | 36 |
| | No. of contraventions found .. .. | Nil |
| | No. of contraventions remedied .. | Nil |
| Producers: (including cowkeepers who retail their own milk):- | | |
| | No. on Register .. .. .. .. | 24 |
| | No. of inspections made .. .. | 40 |

| Contraventions:- | Found. | Remedied. |
|---|---|---|
| (1) Cleansing .. .. .. | 1 | 1 |
| (2) Structural Alterations .. | 1 | Nil |
| (3) Other .. .. .. .. | - | - |

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of samples examined for cleanliness | 12 |
| Satisfactory | 4 |
| Unsatisfactory | 8 |

A meeting of Retailers and Producers was held in October and was addressed by the Medical Officer of Health and by the County Sanitary Inspector on methods which are essential to the production of clean milk.

Meat and other Foods:-

There is one public abattoir in district.

| Private slaughter houses:- | In Jan. 1937. | In Dec. (only 2 in use) |
|---|---|---|
| No. registered | 7 | 7 |
| No. licenced | 1 | 1 |
| No. of inspections of premises | | 20 |
| No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter | | 10 |

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs | Total Weight |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number killed (if known) | 1159 | | 107 | 4191 | 2548 | Not Weighed |
| Number inspected | 699 | | 76 | 3201 | 1404 | Not Weighed |
| All Diseases except Tuberculosis | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis Only | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Meat Stalls:-

No. of inspections .. .. .. .. .. Nil

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.:-

No. of inspections .. .. .. .. .. 30

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections .. .. .. .. .. 80

State any action taken:-

1 - 8 lb. tin Prawns condemned and destroyed.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notified cases of Infectious Disease were as follows:-

| Disease. | Cases notified. | Removed to Hospital. | Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scarlet fever | 20 | 20 | - |
| Diphtheria | 3 | 3 | - |
| Erysipelas | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 31 | - | 5 |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported. The patients were treated at home and recovered with vision unimpaired.

The TUBERCULOSIS cases and deaths are classified as follows:-

| Age-Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Respiratory. | | Other forms. | | Respiratory. | | Other forms. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 and under 5 years | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 5 " " 10 " | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 " " 15 " | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 " " 20 " | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 20 " " 25 " | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 25 " " 35 " | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 35 " " 45 " | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 45 " " 55 " | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 55 " " 65 " | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 65 and upwards | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Fibroid | | | | | | | | |
| Totals:- | 7 | 2 | - | 2 | 5 | 2 | - | - |

Five of the deaths occurred in hospitals or sanatoria.

The fatal cases had been previously notified.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor was any action called for under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The following examinations were made at the County Council's Bacteriological Laboratory:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Sputa for tubercle bacilli .. | 85 |
| Swabs for diphtheria .. .. | 37 |
| Urine (general & bacteriological) | 24 |
| Blood for Wassermann Test .. | 18 |
| Urine for tubercle bacilli .. | 18 |
| Widal's Test for Typhoid Fever .. | 13 |
| Milk examinations .. .. .. | 56 |
| Films for gonococci .. .. | 3 |
| Miscellaneous .. .. .. | 13 |
| Total:- | 267 |

In addition the following were received from the Melton Isolation Hospital:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Swabs for diphtheria .. .. | 364 |
| Sputa for tubercle bacilli .. | 9 |
| Widal Test for Typhoid Fever .. | 6 |
| Milk examinations .. .. | 1 |
| Miscellaneous .. .. .. | 9 |
| Total:- | 389 |

Factories, Workshops & Workplaces:-

Inspections:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Factories (including Factory-Laundries) | No. of inspections | 21 |
| | No. of written notices | - |
| Workshops (including Workshop-Laundries | No. of inspections | 55 |
| | No. of written notices | - |
| Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) | No. of inspections | 17 |
| | No. of written notices | - |
| | Total inspections | 93 |
| | Total written notices | Nil |

Defects Found:-

| Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:- | No. found. | No. remedied. |
|---|---|---|
| Want of Cleanliness .. .. .. | 1 | 1 |
| Sanitary Accommodation Unsuitable or Defective | 2 | 2 |
| Total:- | 3 | 3 |

It was not found necessary to refer any matter to H.M. Inspector.

No instance of Out-work in unwholesome premises came under observation.

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I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

11th May, 1938.